

CHAPTER 16

MILITARY SUPPORT TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES (MSCA)

A. GENERAL

1. **Purpose.** To support the national civil defense policy and civil defense programs under the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

2. **Objective.** To support civil defense agencies and units with a **minimum** commitment of military resources, without disrupting **military** operations, during a national emergency.

3. **Military Resources** are **military/civilian** personnel, equipment, materiel, facilities, and supplies which are controlled by components of the Defense Department.

4. **Applicability and Scope.** MSCA applies to:

a. The **Office** of the **Secretary** of Defense (**OSD**), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (**CJCS**)/Joint Staff, Military Services, Defense Agencies, and Combatant Commands (hereafter collectively referred to as "DoD Components").

b. DoD Components in the 50 States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. territories and possessions.

5. **Authority.** DoD Directive 3025.1 (Military Support to Civil Authorities).

B. MAJOR PLANNING ROLES

1. **Secretary of Defense (SECDEF):** MSCA overall responsibility.

2. **Secretary of the Army (DoD Executive Agent):** MSCA executive authority; the DoD Executive Agent for the provision of DoD resources to civil authorities, shall act for the Secretary of Defense in developing planning guidance, plans and procedures for **MSCA**. The DoD Executive Agent has the authority of the Secretary of Defense (consistent with guidance) to task the DoD Components to plan for and to commit DoD resources in response to requests from civil authorities for **MSCA**. This role may terminate during war if SECDEF assumes **MSCA** responsibility.

3. **Director of Military Support (DOMS).** Acting

for the DoD Executive Agent (**Secretary** of the Army), serves as the action agent for the Secretary of the Army to ensure the performance of all planning and execution responsibilities of the DoD Executive Agent for **MSCA**. The DOMS is the DoD primary contact for **all** Federal departments and agencies during periods of **MSCA**.

4. **DoD Planning Agents.** US Atlantic Command (**USACOM**), and US Pacific Command (**USPACOM**) develop **MSCA** supporting **plans/preparedness** measures and coordinate with the STARCS, regional authorities and FEMA.

a. **USACOM:** 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

b. **USPACOM:** Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. possessions and territories, and administrative entities within the Pacific Command area of responsibility.

5. **Army National Guard State Area Command (STARC).** **STARCs** have the lead in **multi-Service** contingency planning for **MSCA** at the State, District of Columbia and U.S territory levels. **STARCS** shall plan under the guidance of the DoD Planning Agents for their respective **MSCA** areas of responsibility. Prior to federalization, the **STARCS** in State status respond to the Governor through the Adjutant General to provide and coordinate use of the National Guard in disaster relief operations.

6. **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).** **FEMA** is the principal Federal Agency for coordinating Federal-civil defense plans and programs at the national and regional levels, including **civil** defense operational priorities. The Federal Response Plan (**FRP**), under Public Law 93-288 as **amended**, establishes the basis for the provisions of Federal assistance to a state and its affected local governments impacted by a catastrophic or major **disaster** or emergency which results in a requirement for Federal assistance.

a. FEMA has 10 regional **offices** in CONUS; they coordinate provision of federal **assistance** (including military resources) to state and **local** civil governments during Presidential declared peacetime

and civil defense emergencies.

b. FEMA appoints a Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) to oversee and coordinate all Federal responses to the disaster IAW the Disaster Relief Act as amended by the Stafford Act.

c. The Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) coordinates the DoD response based on validated requirements from the FCO.

7. DoD Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (EPLOs). EPLOS may be reservists, full-time civilians, or active duty military personnel of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. They not only represent a Military Service but can represent the Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Communications Agency and Joint Medical Planners. EPLO personnel assigned for duty with a FEMA region, or accredited to a state, plan for military participation in civil emergency operations, present DoD claims for resources, and process and evaluate civil requests for MSCA, maintain effective communication between the DoD Components, DoD and other Federal and state governmental agencies, and promote mutual understanding among various organizations tasked with providing and coordinating emergency support functions in civil emergency situations.

8. The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)/DFSC. Provides advice and assistance to DOMS and DoD Components, makes DoD resources available for MSCA IAW the FRP and DoD Directive 3025.1, and implements supply support procedures in support of MSCA planning consistent with the Executive Agent's guidance.

9. Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO). The DCO is a military or civilian official designated by the Executive Agent or responsible DoD Component to coordinate MSCA activities in response to request from FEMA for DoD support. The authority of each DCO is defined in documentation issued or authorized by the DoD responsible command, and is limited either to the requirements of a specified interagency planning process or to a specified geographical area or emergency.

C. MSCA SYSTEM OVERVIEW

1. MSCA is designed to provide military resources in support of civil governments in time of civil emergencies or attack (including national security emergencies) during any period of peace, war or

transition to war.

2. MSCA is executed when ordered by the President in time of national crisis, mobilization, or war.

3. All DoD Components are potentially available for MSCA subject to national priorities set by the President and the Secretary of Defense, and the commitment of military resources to military operations. Any DoD resources allocated for MSCA may be withdrawn to meet higher priority military missions, subject to coordination through military channels.

4. Responsibilities of the Secretary of the Army, as DoD Executive Agent, may transfer to the CJCS during war or crisis.

5. Military assistance to state and local civil governments is provided by DOMS through USACOM, and PACOM who act as DoD Planning Agents for MSCA. Military commanders are not subject to any authority other than the established military chain of command.

6. Conflicting demands for DoD resources in support of MSCA will be resolved by DoD Components through DOMS.

7. CONUSAs are the central planning point of contact for the FEMA regions for MSCA operations to integrate DoD efforts. CONUSAs are prepared to coordinate MSCA operations in their geographic areas for DoD Components. Emergency fuel support may be channeled through the STARCs.

8. DoD resources may be applied in situations when guidance cannot be obtained from higher headquarters on a timely basis due to attack on the United States or other emergency circumstances. Emergency priorities for applying DoD resources in such situations are:

a. to save human life, prevent human suffering, and protect essential U.S. Government capabilities, including:

- (1) Continuity of U.S. Government.
- (2) Protection of U.S. Government officials.
- (3) Prevention of loss or destruction to



Federal property.

(4) Restoration of essential Federal functions.

b. to preserve or restore state and local governments services.

D. EMERGENCY REQUESTS AND SUPPORT SCENARIO

1. The President declares catastrophic disaster.

2. Director of Military Support (DOMS) executes MSCA by designating a supported CINC (after coordination with the CJCS) and provides guidance to the DoD Components regarding allocation of resources, reimbursement, etc. Degree of military involvement and resources support will depend on national and military priorities. (If the disaster is attack related and requires activation a contingency plans, the JS may assume responsibility for MSCA from DOMS.)

3. DoD Planning Agents (CDRs USACOM and PACOM) plan and support MSCA as directed by DOMS, upon designation as Supported CINC, execute MSCA operations to meet national priorities. The Supported CINC may be authorized in the DOMS execution order to task DoD Components directly to provide military resources when authorized by the Executive Agent.

4. Continental U.S. Armies (CONUSAs) are the regional military commands in CONUS which direct MSCA. By USACOM direction through FORSCOM, CONUSAs may be designated as Joint Regional Defense Commands (JRDC).

5. State Area Commands (STARCs) are the primary command/control element for National Guard forces within each State. STARCs are the state-level planning agency for MSCA; direct state-level civil relief activities in peacetime.

6. DLA Director provides guidance to the DFSC Commander with respect to releasing bulk fuel and on reimbursing the Defense Business Operations Fund. Degree of reimbursement will depend on OSD guidance and supplemental appropriations provided by Congress.

7. Military Services provide bulk fuel at GOGO DFSPS as directed by DFSC or DFRs. Release of on-

base fuel is subject to direction of the Executive Agent through DOMS and the Supported CINC. Requests under imminent serious conditions may be handled if they conform to the criteria from "Immediate Response". Emergency support is provided IAW priorities listed in subsection C9 of this chapter. Free issues of fuel will be promptly reported to DFSC-OS for recording such transactions in the DFAMS data bank.

8. Defense Fuel Regions provide bulk fuel at GOCO/COCO DFSPS in support of civil defense emergency requests subject to emergency guidance (quantity limitations, etc.) set by the DFSC Commander. Such guidance will be in consonance with the Executive Agent, OSD and DLA direction and guidance.

a. Emergency requests for fuel may originate from the DCO, CONUSA, FORSCOM, USACOM, or DOMS. Requests received from other entities should be validated, if possible, with the DCO prior to release.

b. Requests from civil authorities should be redirected to their associated FEMA regional office (see figure 16-1).

E. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE. MSCA may be executed by military commanders as "Immediate Response" under imminently serious conditions resulting from any civil emergency or attack. This response is taken to save lives, prevent human suffering, or mitigate great property damage. Any commander acting under "Immediate Response" authority shall advise the DOMS through command channels by the most expeditious means available and shall seek approval or additional authorization for continuing assistance whenever DoD resources are being committed.

1. In the event of imminent serious conditions resulting from any civil emergency or attack, all military commanders are authorized to respond to requests from the civil sector in order to save lives, prevent human suffering, or limit property damage. This immediate assistance by commanders will not take precedence over their combat and combat support missions, nor over the survival of their units.

2. Immediate Response is situation specific and may or may not be associated with a declared or undeclared disaster. These actions do not supplant established DoD plans for providing support to civil authorities. Commanders may use Immediate

Response authority to assist in the rescue, evacuation and emergency **medical** treatment of casualties, the maintenance or restoration of emergency medial capabilities, **and** the safeguarding of public health. Commanders may also assist with the emergency restoration of essential public services and utilities.

3. Although immediate assistance will be given with the understanding that its costs will be reimbursed, it should not be delayed or denied when the requester is unable or unwilling to make a commitment to reimburse.

F. REIMBURSEMENT OF MILITARY RESOURCES. Guidance for reimbursement procedures for MSCA activities are contained in the DOMS execution order for **MSCA** event.

G. RESPONSIBILITIES. See DoD Directive 3025.1 (**MSCA**) for overall MSCA **functional** responsibilities assigned to the DoD Components.